MES.17  THE FORMATION OF ISLAM

Answer three questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Answer each question in a separate answer booklet.

Write your number not your name on the cover sheet of each answer booklet that you use.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS
20 Page Answer Book x 1
Rough Work Pad

You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed that you may do so by the Invigilator
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*Answer three questions.*

1. To what extent should the establishment of Islam and its spread in the Middle East and North Africa be regarded as a break from the past?

2. Describe and explain how and why people converted to Islam between the foundation of the *amsar* and the rise of the Buyids in the tenth century CE.

3. Why was early Islamic history marked by so many civil wars (*fitnah*)? At what point, if any, were the tensions they revealed resolved?

4. Should the Umayyad state be described as an ‘Arab kingdom’ (Wellhausen)?

5. **Either** (a) How and why did Prophetic *hadith* become significant for Islamic law?
   
   **Or** (b) Examine the historical development of Islamic mysticism (Sufism) and attitudes towards it on the part of the orthodox religious establishment.

6. To what extent was Shi‘ism important in the Buyids’ rule in western Iran and what other sources of legitimacy did they draw upon?

7. Compare and contrast the attitudes of the peoples of the Islamic west (Iberia and North Africa) to the caliphate with those of their eastern counterparts.

8. How did women influence the development of classical Islamic thought and institutions?

END OF PAPER